

What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) is an integration of river and classroom experiences that connect 4th-6th grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-theme activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from among the many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey addresses state and district learning requirements.

Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics (subject to change):

- Aquatic insects & water quality
 - River geology
 - River ecosystems
 - River birds
 - Watershed stewardship
 - Riverboats & piloting
 - Confluence archaeology*
 - Floodplain forest*
 - Dakota culture*
 - Soldier hike*
- * land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 4th-6th grade students.

Field trip location

Mississippi River, on board the Harriet Bishop paddleboat. Trips travel between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, Saint Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park.

Field trip dates & times

September 27, 28, 30, and October 1, 2004

Boat trip duration: 1 hour.

These fall trips are *one-way trips* that incorporate a learning experience at Fort Snelling State Park (*note: this is not at “Historic Fort Snelling”*) as follows:

*** 9:30 a.m. boat departures** begin at Harriet Island, cruise upstream, and disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for a land-based learning session with staff from FSSP or a partner organization. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session will conclude at 12:45 p.m. Busses will load students at the FSSP Visitor Center for return to school.

*** Trips starting at 10:00 a.m.** begin with a land-based learning session at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) with a park naturalist or partner presenter. Following a brown bag lunch, students will board the paddleboat for a trip downstream. The boat departs from FSSP at 11:45 a.m., and arrives at Harriet Island at 1:30 p.m. Busses will load students at the Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, for return to school.

Participation requirements

1) Attendance at a *Big River Teacher Workshop* is *required* of all teachers unless previously attended since January 2000. At the “Big River Workshop” teachers will:

- participate in demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher’s Guide of thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

Workshop location:

Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (enter from Post Road near airport)

Workshop date:

- Wed, Sept 1, 2004 (8:00-noon)

Workshop registration:

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 (Brian Goodspeed).

Workshop cost (donation):

\$10/person (non-refundable) is requested to cover park entry and help defray workshop expenses. Make out a check to “Mississippi National River & Recreation Area” and write “BRJ workshop donation” on the memo line. Send to:

*Attn: Brian Goodspeed
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256*

2) Preparation and follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (ideas and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (info at workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations

Field trip fee: \$7.50/student

Field trip payments are handled by the *Padelford Packet Boat Co. Inc.*, *ph: 651-227-1100.*

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for a limited number of qualifying schools on a first-come, first served basis. (Twin Cities Metro area schools with at least 50% participation in free/reduced lunch program and/or at least 50% students of color qualify. Schools are not eligible two years in a row.) Field trip fees for approved scholarship schools will be **\$3/student**. Schools arrange and pay for their own buses. Scholarship eligibility must be verified by your principal; confirmation will be sent in writing. To request a scholarship call Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297.

Big River Journey Fall, 2004

National award-winning
Mississippi River
field trips!
grades: 4-6

Coordinated by
Mississippi National River and Recreation
Area
(National Park Service)
in cooperation with the
Padelford Packet Boat Co.

Program presenters
Center for Global Environmental Education
Friends of the Mississippi River
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
Padelford Packet Boat Co.
Science Museum of Minnesota
Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota Community

BIG RIVER JOURNEY RESERVATIONS – FALL 2004

TO RESERVE A BIG RIVER JOURNEY TRIP (Fall, '04):

- 1) Contact the Padelford Packet Boat Co. at (651) 227-1100 for a trip/ date reservation.** Reservations are first-come, first-served, in accordance with limits (e.g. 120 student maximum) and guidelines outlined in this flyer.
- 2) Send or fax this form to National Park Service at address below. It is essential that you fill the form out completely, and that you attend or have attended a workshop.**

Trip Date (provided by Padelford) _____ Trip start time (circle):
9:30 10:00

School _____ Number of students (limits: 120/trip,
180/school) _____

Contact Person _____
Contact email _____

School address _____
City, state, zip code _____

Summer address _____
City, state, zip code _____

School Phone # _____
Summer phone # _____
Grade(s) (circle): 4 5 6

Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshop (must circle at least one, or check below):

Wed, Sept 1, 2004 (8:00-12:00) Teachers who will attend:

_____ I/we have attended workshop previously (since Jan, 2000):

NOTE: All BRJ teachers must attend the workshop. If all have attended previously (since 1/00),
check here: _____

Fax or send this form (or a copy) to:
Big River Journey Reservations
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area (National Park Service)
111 E. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
Fax: 651-290-3214

For further information: Call Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297, or visit our website at
http: www.nps.gov/miss or http://www.nps.gov/miss/programs/brj/index.html